



Syracuse City, Utah

A Report to Our Citizens 2018-2019

SYRACUSE CITY MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality, affordable services for its citizens, while promoting community pride, fostering economic development, and preparing for the future.



Overview and Highlights

Syracuse City is a vibrant city with a population of approximately 30,500 residents. It has grown steadily since 2010 when the population was 24,331 residents. Syracuse is a place where residents enjoy a high quality of life in a safe, family oriented community. Syracuse has a strong sense of community which makes it an attractive place to live.

Syracuse was ranked 15 out of 96 cities in Utah for being one of the safest places to live by Niche.com. The City was also recognized by the National Association of Town Watch for having one of the top National Night Out Against Crime programs in 2017.

Syracuse City has experienced steady economic growth over the past year. Our sales tax revenue was up 9.9%. New construction was strong with 331 new single family homes permits and 3 new commercial permits in 2019. The unemployment rate dropped to 2.7% from 2.9% a year ago. The Consumer confidence index remains high at 122.5. Home prices continue to rise because of higher demand due to population increases and migration from out of state.

Demographic Information

	2017	2018	2019
Population	28,407	29,507	30,400
Per Capita Income	\$26,703	\$26,867	\$26,907
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	2.9%	2.7%
Full-Time City Employees	80	84	82
Antelope Island State Park Visitors	431,190	496,023	523,590



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1 - Overview and Highlights.

Page 2 - How are we doing? Service level statistics and performance.

Page 3 - Financial Information.

Page 4 - What's next? Future Projects and Challenges.



How We Have Progressed

Fiscal year 2019



2019 Highlights

- The City began construction on a new three million gallon water tank. This tank is needed to supply water to all of the new development that is happening in the city. The estimated completion date is Spring of 2021.
- The City was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 9th year in a row from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- The City enjoyed planning Special Events throughout the year for our citizens. These included the Easter egg hunt, Heritage Days, the Pumpkin Walk, our Fire Open House and Santa riding on top of the fire truck.



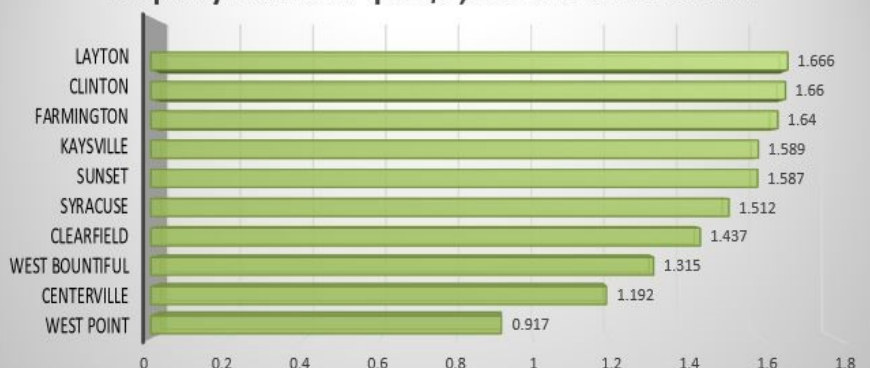
Service Level Statistics & Performance

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019
Police			
Total Incidents reported	14,905	16,041	16,330
Citations written	1,423	1,428	1,187
Total violations on citations	2,077	2,329	1,862
Theft Incidents	252	242	208
Assault incidents	86	68	58
Fire			
Number of calls dispatched	1,002	987	1,036
Average response time	5:43	5:25	5:17
Streets*			
Street sweeping miles	1005	1665	1,446
Street sweeping hours	358	560	450
Culinary Water			
Service connections	7,853	8,184	8,448
Average daily consumption (gallons)	1,730,984	1,768,077	1,776,493
Recreation			
Community Center memberships	932	760	821
Sports program participants	5,520	5,957	6,175
Community Development			
Number of new homes	304	361	331

*Street sweeping miles and hours can vary based upon need and staff availability.

Property Taxes - How do we stack up?

Property tax rates - per \$1,000 of assessed value



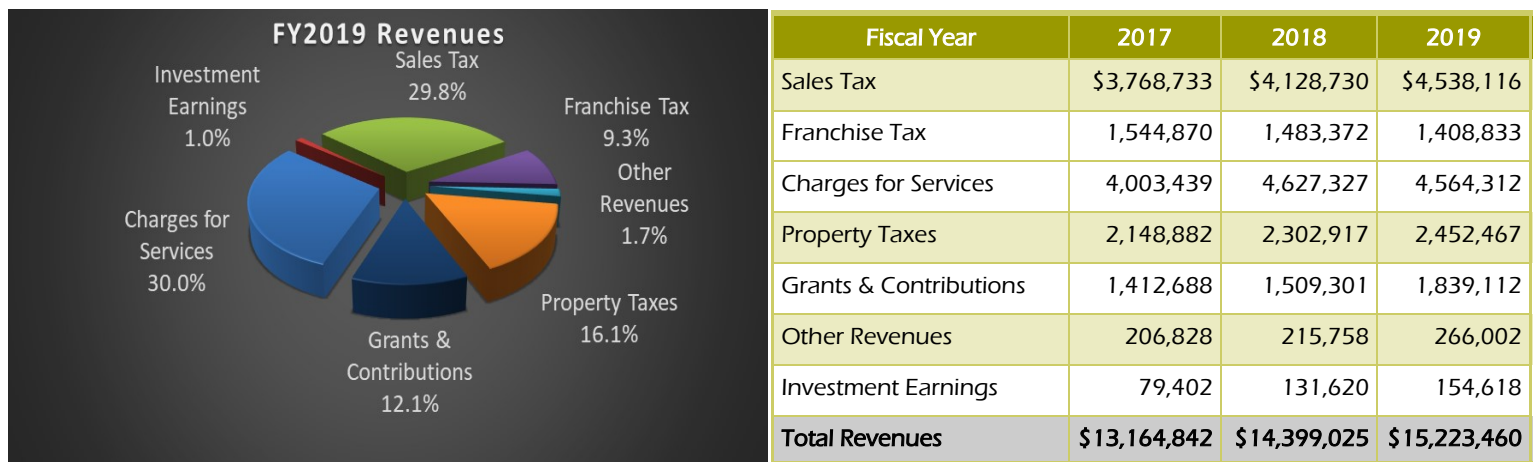
The measures reported on this page were included based on information collected by the City. What would you like to see reported on in this page? Please let us know by contacting Stephen Marshall at 801-614-9621 or by email at smarshall@syracuseut.com.

Our Finances - Revenues vs. Expenses

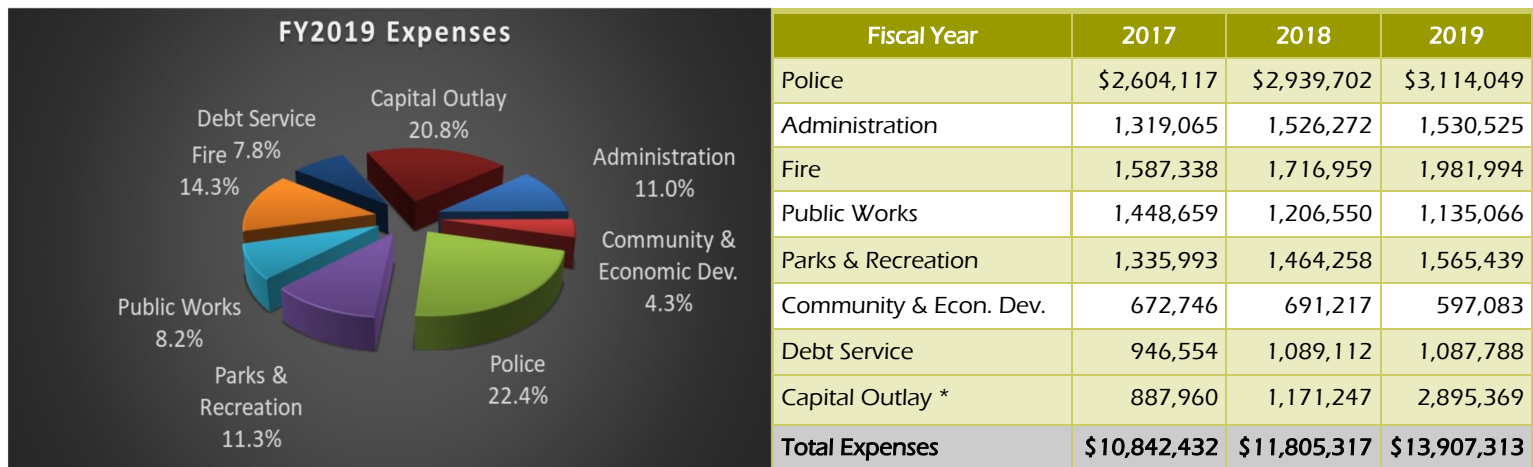
What are the costs for servicing the citizens and how are those costs paid?

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City. It exists to account for the resources used to pay for the services traditionally associated with local government. Included are police and fire protection, parks and recreation, planning and economic development, general administration of the City, and any other activity for which a special fund has not been created. For a complete review of all City Funds please refer to the website below.

Revenues by Source - General Fund



Expenses by Service Area - General Fund



*This large increase is attributed to the construction of the new splash pad at Centennial Park as well as other road construction projects.

Independent Audit

An Independent audit of the City's finances was conducted, resulting in a clean opinion. Complete financial information, including the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, can be found at www.syracuseut.gov.

What's Next? Future Projects and Challenges.

Construction of New Water Tank

The City is currently constructing a new three million gallon culinary water tank (drinking water). This tank is needed to keep up with growth in the city. The estimated cost of the new tank is roughly six million dollars. The water tank was funded by issuing water bonds that will be paid back over 10 years. The funding to repay the bond comes from impact fees charged on new development and culinary water utility fees that each resident pays. The existing one million gallon culinary water tank (pictured, right side) will be converted into a secondary water tank (irrigation water) at the completion of the project, which will enhance the water delivery in our secondary system. It will give us better pressure in the secondary system and will be able to handle new growth. The estimated completion date of this project is Spring of 2021.



Regional Park Development

Did you know that Syracuse City has 50 acres of land dedicated for a future regional park? The land is located on Gentile Street and 2000 West. The City Council has begun designing the park layout and amenities. However, we would like your help. We will be sending out surveys via Flash vote to gain input from our residents. If you would like to give input to this project as well as other projects, please sign up by going to <https://www.flashvote.com/syracuseut>.

Our next challenge will be determining how to fund the construction of the park. Currently, the City receives park impact fees from new home development. The residents voted to approve a Recreation, Arts, and Parks (RAP) tax in November 2017. The RAP tax will add 1/10 of one percent to the sales tax rate in Syracuse. All of the sales tax proceeds will go to recreation, arts, and parks in Syracuse and could be used to help fund the new regional park. These impact fees and taxes are not enough to fund the construction of the entire park. The City also plans to seek out state or federal grants and solicit donations to help fund the regional park. It could take several years to raise enough funds to construct the regional park. Alternatively, the City could start construction sooner and phase portions of the park in sections when money becomes available.

Maintaining Level of Service

One of the biggest challenges that Syracuse city faces is maintaining our level of service to its citizens. The city has grown from a small farming community in 1990 with a population of 4,864, to a thriving bedroom community with a population of approximately 30,400 residents today. We estimate that the City will grow to approximately 35,000 residents in 2025 with a projected build out of approximately 55,000 residents. With a growing city, challenges arise in making sure we maintain a high level of service to our citizens. This means that we will likely need to add staff, equipment, vehicles, and other resources in order to ensure the needs of the citizens will be met. Syracuse City is proud to say that the property taxes in Syracuse are competitive with surrounding area cities. We will continue to work hard and strive to keep your taxes low all while providing great service to our citizens.

We want to hear from you.

Do you like this report? Would you like to see other information? Please let us know by contacting Stephen Marshall @ 801-614-9621 or by email at smarshall@syracuseut.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at Syracuse City, Utah or on Twitter at @syracusecity. For more information on City services, visit our website at www.syracuseut.gov.

